

Application Serial No.: 10/663,332
Amdt. dated June 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated April 7, 2005 and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification and claims to overcome various informalities. Applicant has further canceled Claims 1-5, 13 and 15, amended Claims 6, 9-12 and 14, and added new Claims 17-20 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 6-12, 14 and 16-20 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, the specification and Claims 1, 3 and 13-15 have been objected to based on various informalities. The Examiner has helpfully set forth the basis for each specific objection. In response, Applicant has amended the specification and Claim 14 to correct each informality and has canceled Claims 1, 3, 13 and 15. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the specification and Claims 1, 3 and 13-15 have been overcome.

Also in the Office Action, Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Again, the Examiner has helpfully set forth the basis for each specific rejection. In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 3 and 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejection to Claims 1-16 have been overcome.

Claims 6-8 and 10 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 6 and 10 by rewriting it in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim 1 and including amendments made to overcome the §112 rejections set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

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that Claim 6, Claims 7-8 which depend from Claim 6 and Claim 10 are now in condition for allowance.


Applicant has further amended Claims 9, 11 and 12 to make them depend from allowable Claim 6. Applicant has further added new Claims 17-20, which depend from allowable Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9, 11, 12 and 17-20, which all depend from allowable Claim 6, are now in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant has amended Claim 14 by rewriting it in independent form including the limitations of Claim 1 and allowable Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 14 and Claim 16, which depends from Claim 14, are now in condition for allowance.

As an aside, Applicant notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,134,324 to Sakagami et al., which was cited against Claims 1-5, 9, 11 and 13-16 in paragraphs 7 and 10 of the Office Action, is not listed on the Examiner's Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) nor is this patent listed on any Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) submitted by Applicant. Applicant wishes to ensure that this reference is listed on the cover page of any patent which may issue from this application.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 6-12, 14 and 16-20 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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